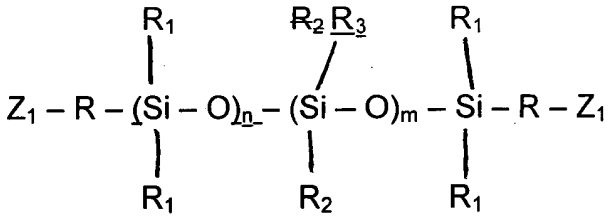
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A prepolymer precursor comprising:



wherein the R groups may be the same or different saturated C_{1-10} hydrocarbon substituents; the R_1 groups may be the same or different C_{1-10} alkyl substituents; the R_2 groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl substituents, C_{1-10} fluoroalkyl substituents, and C_{2-20} alkyl-fluoroalkyl substituents; ~~and~~ the R_3 groups may be the same or different C_{6-30} aromatic substituents; n is a natural number; and m is a natural number greater than 4 representing the sum of siloxane moieties with randomly differing R_1, R_2 and R_3 groups as defined above so as to have a molar ratio of aromatic substituents to alkyl substituents no less than 1:4 such that the prepolymer molecular weight is at least approximately 1000 and refractive index is at least approximately 1.45; and the Z_1 groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of –OH and $–NH_2$.

Claim 2. (Original): The prepolymer precursor of claim 1 wherein at least one of said Z_1 groups is --OH.

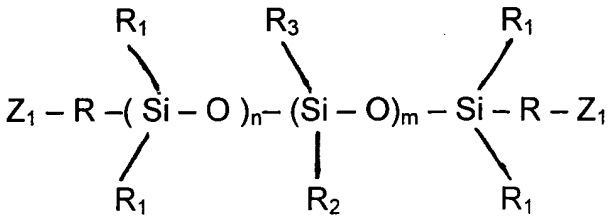
Claim 3. (Original): The prepolymer precursor of claim 1 wherein at least one of said Z_1 groups is $-NH_2$.

Claim 4. (Currently amended): The prepolymer precursor of claim 1 wherein each R_1 group is methyl and each ~~R_2~~ R_3 group is phenyl.

Claim 5. (Original): The prepolymer precursor of claim 1 wherein each R group is trimethylene or tetramethylene.

Claim 6. (Currently amended): The prepolymer precursor of claim 1 wherein each ~~R_2~~ R_3 group is the same selected from the group consisting of phenyl~~,~~ and naphthyl ~~and methyl~~.

Claim 7. (Currently amended): A prepolymer precursor comprising:



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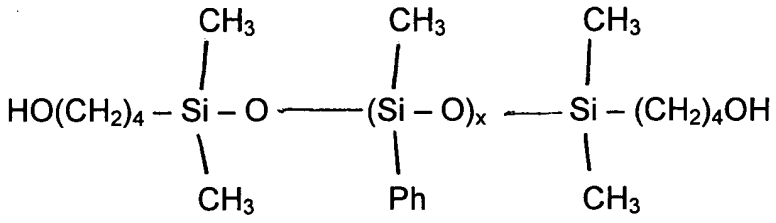
wherein the R groups may be the same or different saturated C_{1-10} hydrocarbon substituents; the R_1 groups may be the same or different C_{1-10} alkyl substituents; the R_2 groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl substituents, C_{1-10} fluoroalkyl substituents and C_{2-20} alkyl-fluoroalkyl substituents; the R_3 groups may be the same or different C_{6-30} aromatic substituents; n is a natural number; and m is a natural number greater than 4 representing the sum of siloxane moieties with randomly differing R_1, R_2 and R_3 groups as defined above so as to have a molar ratio of aromatic substituents to alkyl substituents no less than 1:4 such that the prepolymer molecular weight is at least approximately 1000 and refractive index is at least approximately 1.45; and the Z_1 groups may be the same or different selected from the group consisting of –OH and $–NH_2$. ~~The prepolymer precursor of claim 1~~ wherein one R_3 ~~R_2~~ group is phenyl and ~~the other~~ one R_2 group is methyl.

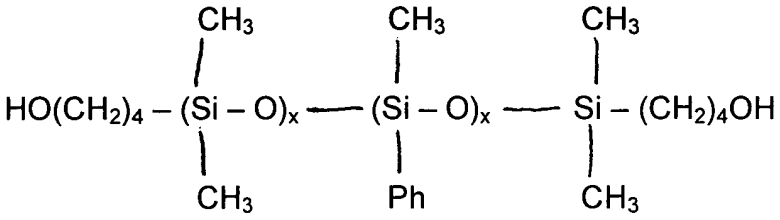
Claims 8 - 27. (Withdrawn)

Claim 28. (Original): A prepolymer precursor comprising:



wherein the Ph groups are the same or different C_{6-30} aromatic substituents and x is a natural number such that the prepolymer molecular weight is at least approximately 1000 and refractive index is at least approximately 1.45.

Claim 29. (Currently amended): A prepolymer precursor comprising:



wherein the Ph groups are the same or different C_{6-30} aromatic substituents and each x is a natural number such that the prepolymer molecular weight is at least approximately 1000 and refractive index is at least approximately 1.45.